Provision has also been made for the purchase of a cinema operator with the necessary equipments for doing propaganda work in agriculture. The Agricultural School at Kottarakara and the Kari Experimental Farm at Porakad are to be continued.

Intimately connected with the question of improving the livestock in this country is the question of improving the grazing lands in the State. The general question of improvement of grass lands came up for the consideration of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research last year and Dr. W. Burns, the Agricultural Expert of the Council, drew up a scheme on the subject which has been recommended to all the constituent States including Travancore. The scheme is simple and costs very little. The proposal is to select from any grazing reserve two similar and adjacent plots of about 20 acres each, enclose one for controlled grazing and leave the other for indiscriminate grazing as at present. Within each of these blocks small movable fences will be erected to enclose random representative plots from which cattle will be excluded and the grass growing thereon in similar intervals of time will be cut and weighed to compare results and estimate improvements. As the expenditure involved in the experiment is but small in comparison with the importance of the problem of improvement of livestock, it is proposed to give the experiment a fair trial.

On the report of the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries and the recommendation of the Board of Agriculture, arrangements have been made to open, as an experimental measure in the first instance, two Quarantine stations, one at Aramboly and the other at Karukutty for preventing the import into this State of cattle from outside infected with contagious and infectious diseases such as rinder-pest etc.

The opening of a fish curing yard at Warkalai to render adequate facilities to the fisherfolk of the locality for drying and curing the fish caught by them has also been provided for. Provision has also been made for working the Cold Storage plant at Trivandrum.

19. *Industries.* Enquiries having reached Government for the purchase, if available, of such minerals as mica, graphite and limestone for which there is an increasing demand in the foreign markets, the Director has reported that an organised attempt may be made to mine them on a commercial basis and provision has therefore been made in the Industries Budget for starting an intensive prospecting work in respect of these minerals in order to investigate and explore the possibilities in this direction.

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The Trade Agency and Sales Depot at Bombay which was opened as a Government concern for popularising and extending the introduction of Travancore products into the foreign markets is proposed to be handed over to an agency initiated by the various Chambers of Commerce in the State who are naturally interested in the industrial and trading activities of the State. The Sales Depot at Trivandrum has been doing useful work and its continuance has been provided for.

20. *Co-operative Department.* It has been brought to the notice of Government that there is some tardiness in the progress of liquidation work in the Co-operative Department owing to the inadequacy of the executive staff. To remedy this state of affairs, an additional temporary staff of 10 Inspectors for liquidation work is proposed to be appointed next year. The usual subsidies to non-official Co-operative bodies such as the Supervising Unions and Co-operative Conferences are proposed to be continued next year also. The payment of an annual subsidy of Rs 500 to the Gorasa Vyavasaya Co-operative Society Ltd., Neyyattinkara, has also been provided for. Provision has also been made for placing the services of a trained Inspector of Co-operative Societies at the disposal of the Central Produce Society Ltd., Alleppey, a Co-operative Non-Credit Society organised on the recommendation of the Devadhar Committee.

21. *Uplift of Backward Communities.* It has always been the aim of Government to increase, as far as possible, from year to year, the budget allotment for expenditure on account of ameliorative measures for the uplift of Backward communities and for the ensuing year a provision of Rs 40,000 (Rs 30,000 in the Revenue Budget and Rs 10,000 under Debt Heads for the advance of loans to Backward communities for putting up houses) has been made as against the current year's provision of Rs 20,000. The main items of ameliorative work carried out by the Department for the protection of Backward communities are the grant of educational concessions such as the supply of books and school accessories to children of Backward communities, the award of grants-in-aid for industrial purposes, concessional registry of land in favour of members of Backward communities, the provision of wells, burial grounds, common buildings and other amenities and the establishment of model colonies where members of Backward communities are provided

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